

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**BOWLING GREEN MAN PLEADS GUILTY  
TO SELLING GUNS, POWDER AND "CRACK" COCAINE**

***– Street value of drugs \$33,090***

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **JULIO ORTIZ**, age 38, of 5540 Louisville Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Warren County, **pled guilty** to a **Superseding Information** that was filed against him. **Ortiz** was originally indicted in August 2006 for distribution of 50 grams or more of cocaine base, commonly referred to as "crack" cocaine, and 500 grams or more of cocaine. The Superseding Information which **Ortiz** pleaded guilty to today charges **Ortiz** with two additional counts of violating federal firearms laws (disposing of firearms to a convicted felon), and two more counts of violating federal drug laws (distribution of powder and crack cocaine).

In all, **Ortiz** distributed a total of 1111.5 grams of cocaine. He distributed a total of 136.2 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectible amount of cocaine base, that is, "crack" cocaine. The drugs sold or distributed during the transactions had a combined estimated street value of \$33,090.00.

**Ortiz** faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years. The maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$6,500,000.00 fine, and a term of supervised release of not less than 5 years. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Law enforcement officials had previously arrested **Ortiz** on July 15, 2006, following a buy-bust operation in Barren County. According to an Affidavit filed by a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), in support of a Criminal Complaint for **Ortiz's** arrest, on July 15, 2006, the ATF and Barren-Edmonson County Drug Task Force (BECDTF), along with the Kentucky State Police (KSP), conducted an undercover buy-bust operation. A Task Force Detective acted in an undercover capacity, and purchased one kilogram, or 1,000 grams, of powder cocaine and four ounces, 114 grams, of cocaine base, commonly referred to as "crack" cocaine for \$28,000 from **Ortiz**. U.S. Attorney Huber praised the cooperation of the Barren-Edmonson County Drug Task Force and the Kentucky State Police.

At approximately 4:10 p.m., **Ortiz** arrived at the rear parking lot of a gas station in Park City, Kentucky, and met with the undercover officer. Law enforcement officials observed **Ortiz** drive to the gas station in a green Mercury van, which is registered to him.

Upon greeting the detective, **Ortiz** showed him one package of powder cocaine (containing one kilogram), and four separate packages of cocaine base, "crack" cocaine (totaling approximately four ounces). **Ortiz** got into a vehicle with the detective where **Ortiz** removed the drugs from his groin area. Upon viewing the drugs, the officer indicated he would get the money from his vehicle, which was parked approximately 40-50 yards away. As the detective walked to his vehicle, he gave the bust signal and the arrest teams moved in. Law enforcement officials immediately arrested **Ortiz** without incident.

According to an affidavit, a federal agent conducted a field test of the package containing the kilogram of powder cocaine and one of the packages containing "crack" cocaine. The field tests showed positive results for the presence of cocaine and cocaine base, respectively. The agent also weighed the substances. The package of powder cocaine weighed approximately 1,043 grams,

including packaging. The four packages of “crack” cocaine weighed a total of 114.9 grams, including packaging.

The Plea Agreement entered into between the parties, and filed in open court, laid out several other instances in which **Ortiz** had sold cocaine, “crack” cocaine, and two firearms. **Ortiz** admitted that on May 26, 2006, he sold approximately 9.6 grams of cocaine to an individual. He sold the individual approximately 27.7 grams of cocaine on June 1, 2006. On June 9, 2006, **Ortiz** engaged in two separate transactions. First, he sold approximately 54.5 grams of cocaine to the person. Second, he sold the individual a Lorcin .22 caliber pistol and approximately 11.3 grams of cocaine. **Ortiz** sold the man the gun even though he (**Ortiz**), knew that the man was a convicted felon. **Ortiz** again sold the man (a felon), 1.7 grams of cocaine and a Bryco 9mm semi-automatic pistol on June 19, 2006. On June 24, 2006, **Ortiz** gave an undercover detective approximately 1.7 grams of cocaine. Six days later, on June 30, 2006, he sold approximately 26.8 grams of cocaine base, that is, “crack” cocaine, to the detective acting in an undercover capacity.

In all, **Ortiz** distributed a total of 1111.5 grams of cocaine. He distributed a total of 136.2 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectible amount of cocaine base, that is, “crack” cocaine. The drugs sold or distributed during the transactions had a combined estimated street value of \$33,090.00.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in close conjunction with the Barren-Edmonson County Drug Task Force and Kentucky State Police conducted the investigation.

**Ortiz** is scheduled for sentencing on December 5, at 12:00 p.m. in Bowling Green, Kentucky, before United States District Judge Thomas B. Russell. **Ortiz** is currently held in the custody of the United States Marshal Service with no bond.

**- END -**

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